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CHINA'S NEW REPUBLIC SEEMS TO BE ON SAFE GROUND NOW

Special Correspondent Tells of Conditions a Year After Revolution

By GEORGE WOODHEAD.

(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence)

PEKING, China, October 12.—October 10 was the first anniversary of the outbreak of the Revolution at Wu-chang. It was observed throughout China as a National Festival, and was made the occasion of public rejoicings and celebrations in every city of importance. Many of the Chinese newspapers appeared in red ink, and all of them devoted much of their space to jubilant articles upon the anniversary. In Peking itself the President held a review of some 15,000 or 20,000 troops outside his residence, and an official reception, to which all prominent Chinese officials and foreign residents were invited was held subsequently in the Cabinet building. The President also marked the occasion by conferring various grades of the new Orders of Merit upon officials and others which have rendered conspicuous service to the Republic, among the recipients being Dr. Sun Yat Sen, General Li Yuan-hung (the Vice-President), General Huang Hsing, and the members of the Cabinet.

In many centers the anniversary celebrations were awaited with considerable apprehension and there will be corresponding relief that they have passed off without any untoward incidents. Though it cannot be denied that confidence in the Government is increasing, there is still a decidedly jumpy feeling in many important cities, notably at Wu-chang, where the vigilance of the local authorities has been taxed to the utmost to unearthen and frustrate plots against the Government.

The first anniversary of the outbreak of the Revolution finds Yuan Shih Kai in an extraordinary strong position. Since the visit of Dr. Sun to the Capital much of the open hostility to the President which had become so apparent in the South, has disappeared. Yuan Shih Kai is now upon most cordial terms with the Cabinet and the National Council. Only a short time ago the latter accepted the nomination of Mr. Chao Pin-chun, one of the President's staunchest adherents, to the Premiership by 69 votes out of 71. Moreover, it is somewhat curious that as the President's power is so openly increased, less and less is heard of the allegation that he is aiming at a dictatorship.

Whether the President's popularity is increasing it is impossible to say. That he is generally respected and admired is not open to doubt, but he still has many enemies, and even on the occasion of the Anniversary Celebrations he was curiously reluctant to venture forth from his residence. He reviewed the troops from the gate of the new Luchung building, in which he now resides, and appeared at the subsequent reception in the adjacent Cabinet building for only two minutes at the most. Obviously he is not yet assured of his personal safety, and has no intention of risking a repetition of the incident of January 17.

While it is maintained in official circles that the outlook is most promising, there is an undercurrent of pessimism. The jubilation with which the announcement of the flotation of the first half of the crisp £10,000,000 loan was greeted, has now been replaced by a feeling of misgiving, for the significance of the fact that the public subscribed for less than \$2,000,000 is at last being realized, and there is considerable anxiety regarding the effect of the Balkan crisis upon the European money markets. It is becoming clearer day by day that even if the full amount of £10,000,000 be floated that sum will be utterly inadequate to relieve China of her financial embarrassments. The provinces remain reluctant and tardy in face of the appeals of the Central Government for funds, and it is extremely unlikely that any uniform system of taxation will be enforced before the assembling of the new Parliament next year.

In every direction the Government continues to be harassed by lack of funds. Few, if any, of the elaborate schemes of reorganization and reform which have been prepared upon paper can be accomplished until the government is in possession of a large sum of ready money. Certain of these reforms are regarded as necessary to justify the very existence of the government, and yet it is patent to all that any attempt at this juncture to enforce a uniform system of taxation for the benefit of the central government will be doomed to failure, if it did not actually jeopardize the republic itself. A minority of thoughtful Chinese now appear to be coming around to the view that the financial outlook has not been appreciably improved by the Crisp loan, and that China's financial difficulties will not be over until the government is in a position either to enforce the collection and remittance of uniform taxes, or to command further financial assistance from abroad.

Attacks on British Policy. In certain sections of the Chinese press the flotation of the Crisp loan has been made the occasion of a campaign of vilification of the British Government, and in particular of the British minister at Peking, who is Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps. The Peking Daily News, a paper which is owned and edited by Chinese, but printed in English, has been particularly offensive in its remarks about Sir John Jordan. For some years this journal has been regarded as the semi-official organ of the Chinese foreign office. Its official connection is now denied, but it is actually edited by an official in the Ministry of communications. Three days ago the President found it necessary to issue instructions to the Chinese Press,

through the Minister of Interior, not to ridicule or slander the ministers of foreign powers, and to remind them that such conduct amounted to a gross breach of international courtesy.

It is idle to deny that Great Britain's connection with the Sextuple group has made her extremely unpopular in many quarters. A day or two ago one of the leading Chinese papers published a lengthy article entitled "A proposed Triple Alliance." In this article Britain's policy in the Far East is stated to "excite laughter and pity, rather than command respect" and it is asserted that "to form an alliance with her now will scarcely be of any advantage to us." It proceeds to urge that China would derive most advantage from allying herself with the United States and Germany. However visionary such a proposal may be, it is interesting as showing the revulsion of feeling against Great Britain which her recent action in regard to Tibet; and the Crisp loan, has brought about.

GERMANS PAY FAMINE PRICES

BERLIN, Sept. 28.—Germans are now paying for all kinds of meat, wheat, rye and several other necessities of life prices higher than are paid anywhere else in the world. Prices are still rising and the per capita consumption of virtually all foodstuffs is falling off. The number of horses slaughtered for meat in Berlin during the first six months of the present year reached 5,924 and exceeded the figures for the corresponding period of 1911 by 1,463. The Germans ate 43,762 tons less of beef in the first half of this year than in 1910, and paid \$3,750,000 more for the smaller quantity.

Dressed swine are bringing more than 18 cents a pound at the abattoirs, and more than half of all the meat consumed in the empire is pork. Retail butchers have had to pay 22½ cents a pound for dressed beef, and veal is higher. Veal cutlets bring from 48 to 52 cents the pound. Official statistics for the last week of August showed Mannheim paying \$12.50 more per ton of wheat than is paid in the United States, and \$11 more per ton for rye, the chief bread-stuff of the people, than is paid in any other country.

Market days throughout the cities and towns of Silesia are being marked by mad riots of a people enraged over the high prices exacted for virtually everything they must buy. The police have had to guard the dealers in Legnitz, Glogauer, Jauer, Hirschberg and half a dozen towns more.

Faced by these conditions, the government finally has admitted, through the official "North German Gazette," the existence of almost famine prices for virtually all necessities, and especially for meat. It still asserts, however, that the period of high prices is only temporary, and that a normal lower level must soon be reached. Holding, as it does, such a point of view, the government believes that no legislative or other remedy is needed, and demands for such relief, which are pouring in from every quarter except from the Agrarians, are met with the declaration that the economic policy of the nation cannot be altered to meet a situation which will soon pass.

Meanwhile there is a rapidly growing discontent with the government's policy, which is so manifest that it cannot be overlooked nor disregarded. All over the Empire the Socialists, who represent a good third of the total population, have been holding meetings of protest, which have been packed to the doors. The Socialist faction of the Reichstag, the strongest in that body, has petitioned convocation of the Reichstag and speedy legislation to open the borders to the free importation of cattle, meat and other necessities. Scores of city councils have discussed the situation and have either petitioned the government for aid or have established municipal markets, made agreements with butchers and taken other means to afford relief.

The Diet of the Kingdom of Bavaria debated an interpellation looking to a general lowering or abolition of the tariff rates on necessities of life. Herr von Soden, Minister of the Interior, answering the interpellation, declared that such action would have no effect on prices, and furthermore, that it could not be considered in any event, since it would mark a departure of Germany from the established protective policy. The municipal authorities of Frankfurt-on-the-Main have addressed a second petition to the government, asking relief from conditions, which make it all but impossible for the lower classes to get enough to eat.

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